

OCT 13 1964

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Woman Dies In Robbery On Towpath

Was Descendant Of Gifford Pinchot, Ex-Wife of Author

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Staff Reporters

Mary Pinchot Meyer, a Georgetown artist with "a hundred thousand friends," was shot to death yesterday as she walked along the towpath of the C&O Canal. She had often walked the same path with Mrs. John F. Kennedy:

Mrs. Meyer, 43, was a niece of Gifford Pinchot, twice Governor of Pennsylvania and chief of the Forest Service under President Theodore Roosevelt. Her father, Amos Pinchot, a leader in the Bull Moose Party, was the brother of Gifford Pinchot.

Dressed casually in slacks and tennis sneakers, Mrs. Meyer was strolling alone along the tow-path in yesterday's bright, sunny weather. At about 12:45 p.m., at the 4400 block of Canal rd., nw., she was shot twice by an attacker whose apparent motive was robbery.

Within an hour after the slaying, police arrested Raymond Crump Jr., 25, of 1908 Stanton ter. se. Crump was charged with homicide and arraigned before U.S. Commissioner Sam Wertlieb, who ordered him held without bail.

The slaying was reported by a tow truck driver who heard a scream as he was driving along Canal Road. Looking across the canal, he saw a woman struggling with a man on the towpath.

The driver, Henry Wiggins, 24, jerked to a halt. He heard two screams as he got out of his truck and when he reached the retaining wall over the canal saw a man leaning over the woman.

The man stuffed something into his pocket, looked up at

Wiggins and then raced down the embankment to the river. Wiggins gunned his truck back to the Key Bridge Esso station, where he works, and called police.

Pvt. James Scoufoukas, 31, of the Seventh Precinct, met and picked up Wiggins almost immediately after the report was broadcast over police radio.

Other scout cars converged upon the canal and within an hour arrested Crump, who was found behind some rocks in the woods alongside the river, not far from the slaying.

Shivering and coatless, Crump said he had been fishing and had got wet trying to retrieve his fishing pole from the canal. A laborer recently released from serving a 60-day prison term for petty larceny, Crump denied any part in the slaying.

At his arraignment he said, "I was down there fishing and lost my rod. I don't know what happened. I almost got shot myself."

Police said Crump was picked out of a lineup by Wiggins as the man he saw standing over the body.

Police also said they found a white jacket in the water near the slaying. A member of Crump's family later identified the jacket as belonging to Crump, police said.

Crump has five children. According to police records the 60-day sentence for petty larceny was his only conviction.

He had been working for a paving contractor at Southeast Hospital but did not show up for work yesterday, police said.

Robbery was the apparent motive for the slaying, police said, but they did not know whether Mrs. Meyer was carrying a purse or wallet. Scuba divers searched the canal and the river for the murder weapon.

Deputy Coroner Linwood L. Rayford Jr. made a brief examination of the body at the scene. He said the body was bruised, indicating that there had been a struggle, and that perhaps Mrs. Meyer had been dragged a short distance. Rayford said Mrs. Meyer had been shot in the left temple and in the back.

Mrs. Meyer was identified at the D.C. Morgue eight hours after the slaying by her brother-in-law, Benjamin Bradlee, Washington bureau chief of Newsweek Magazine.

Mrs. Meyer's identity re-

several hours after the slaying. The only lead they had was a glove found near the scene with the name Meyer written faintly on the inside.

Checking all the Meyers listed in the telephone book, police called her home at 1523 34th st. nw. When no one answered, they checked with neighbors, who referred them to Bradlee.

Mrs. Meyer was born in New York City, where her father was an attorney. She was a graduate of Vassar College, and one of her roommates there was Mrs. Samuel J. Canahan, Washington, civic leader and a candidate for D. C. Democratic National Committeewoman in last May's primary.

Mrs. Meyer and her former husband, Cord Meyer Jr., moved to Washington about 1950. Meyer was one of the founders of the United World Federalists, Inc., and a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco in 1945.

He contributed articles to several magazines, including the Atlantic Monthly and the New Republic, and is the author of "Peace or Anarchy." He is presently employed by the Federal Government.

A Marine veteran of the Second World War, Meyer was named one of the ten outstanding men in the United States in 1947 by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The Meyers were divorced a few years ago. They had two sons: Quentin, 18, who attends the Salisbury School in Salisbury, Conn.; and Mark, 14, a student at the Milton Academy near Boston. A third son was killed in an auto accident about five years ago.

With her sons away at school Mrs. Meyer lived alone in her small, two-story gray townhouse on 34th st. A professional artist in recent years, she worked in a private studio at the rear of 3325 N st. nw.

Besides her two sons, her former husband and her sister, Mrs. Bradlee, Mrs. Meyer's survivors include her mother, Mrs. Amos Pinchot of New York, and her aunt, Mrs. Gifford Pinchot.

Mrs. Meyer painted large, abstract oils based on the interplay of color and geometric forms. She exhibited with the Jefferson Place Gallery here last year and recently had an exhibition at the Pan American Union. That exhibit cur-

America under the auspices of the Pan American Union.

William Walton, chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, said Mrs. Meyer was "one of the most beautiful women I have ever known" and said her painting was "full of promise." He described her work as "feminine, glowing and lyrical."

Mrs. Meyer was a close friend of the John F. Kennedys from the days when Mr. Kennedy, then a Senator from Massachusetts, lived near her N Street studio.

Her other friends included writers, artists, Government officials and newspapermen. Bradlee described her as "a wonderful person—gay, sensitive." Her neighbors spoke of her as being beautiful and polite, a lady who moved and dressed in an elegant manner. She wore primarily blue or green clothes, they said, which seemed to alter the color of her light eyes to match them.

She also kept cats at her N Street home, where she had lived for eight years. Last night a sign remained on her door which said "Free Kittens—Ring Bell or Call." The kittens cried outside the dark-